



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

MARLBOROUGH RESIDENT GUILTY OF UNLAWFULLY TRANSFERRING FAKE UNITED STATES IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS AND POSSESSION OF DOCUMENT-MAKING IMPLEMENTS

BOSTON—A Brazilian man residing in Marlborough has been convicted in federal court of transferring, and aiding and abetting the transfer of, fake United States identification documents, and possessing document-making implements.

United States Attorney Michael J. Sullivan; Matthew Etre, acting special agent-in-charge of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in New England; and Leo J. Sullivan, special agent-in-charge of the U.S. Social Security Administration's Office of Inspector General, announced that Horacio Neto, 39, of 110 Boston Post Road, Marlborough, Mass., pleaded guilty yesterday before U.S. District Judge Douglas P. Woodlock to two counts of transferring false identification documents and one count of possessing document-making implements.

At yesterday's plea hearing, the prosecutor told the court that, had the case proceeded to trial, the evidence would have proven that on June 10, 2005, and July 15, 2005, Neto unlawfully transferred four counterfeit Alien Registration Cards commonly known as "green cards" and four counterfeit Social Security Account Number Cards during an undercover sting operation.

Specifically, a confidential source ("CS") cooperated with ICE agents in an undercover investigation. Through telephone calls the CS made arrangements to purchase from Neto two sets of fraudulent green cards and social security cards. On June 10, 2005, the CS met with Neto in a parking lot in Marlborough and provided Neto with a digital memory card containing two photos, names and dates of birth to be used on the fraudulent documents. Neto left with the items and information and entered an apartment building located at 195 East Main Street in Marlborough. Neto rented an apartment at this location for operating his false document production business. Neto returned to the meeting place approximately 40 minutes later providing the CS with two sets of fraudulent documents. The CS paid Neto \$160 in cash for the fraudulent documents.

On July 16, 2005 the CS purchased an additional two sets of fraudulent identification documents from Neto again paying \$160 in cash.

On Aug. 10, 2005, Neto was arrested in the early morning hours as he was exiting 195 East Main Street in Marlborough. A search warrant was executed at the location. During the search, agents recovered various document-making materials, including, an HP Compaq computer hard drive, an E-machine computer hard drive, a bag of miscellaneous papers and completed and partially completed counterfeit documents, and a plastic baggie containing five completed counterfeit documents.

Judge Woodlock scheduled sentencing for Jan. 9, 2006. Neto faces up to 15 years in prison, to be followed by three years of supervised release, and a \$250,000 fine on each count of the indictment. Additionally, Neto faces possible deportation to his native Brazil upon completion of any prison sentenced that is imposed.

The case was investigated by ICE and the U.S. Social Security Administration's Office of Inspector General. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Antoinette E.M. Leoney in Sullivan's Major Crimes Unit.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.